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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/394,327 09/13/1999		YUTAKA SAWAYAMA	48212-CIP 4070		
21874 75	90 06/04/2003				
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP			EXAMINER		
P.O. BOX 9169 BOSTON, MA			PARKER, KENNETH		
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2871		
		DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003	DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. 08/394.327 Application No. 08/394.327 ANAWAYAMA ET AL. Examiner Art Unit Kenneth A Parker 2871 Art Unit Kenneth A Barker 2871 Art Unit Kenneth A Barker 2871 Art Unit Kenneth A Barker 2871 A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM The Barker State of the Communication of the Parker And Parker 2981 Art Unit Art Un						MU		
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Family Section Sect	•		09/394,327	7	SAWAYAMA ET AL.			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ③ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after Sts (0 months) secretable above is less than thinty (20) days, and pay within the statutory minimum of thinty (0) days will be considered timely. If IN O period for reply is specified above, the meaninum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the melling date of time communication. Failure to reply which the set or collected period for reply will be the statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the melling date of time communication of the property of the other statutory of the other statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the melling date of this communication. One of the property of the			Examiner		Art Unit			
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Attachment(s)								
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 17,19. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) Other:	2) Not	ice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948	3) o(s) <u>17,19</u> .	5) Notice of Inform				

Art Unit: 2871

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is over 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. What is a "front diffuser" cannot be determined. For examining purposes, it is assumed that any diffuser is a front diffuser.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 12-13, 17, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Nakabaysahi et al 6379017

Nakabaysahi et al discloses a front illuminating device with a light source 1, a light 203 directing body functioning as claimed with a light incident surface and opposite releasing surfaces, and a second light releasing surface formed into a step shape with slanting portions for reflecting light mainly form the light source toward the first light releasing surface as claimed. There are prisms on both bodies, and as the prisms are linear they will be anisotropically diffusing (the prisms will inherently defuse some of the light associated with the prisms, and therefore linearly, or "anisotropically". The layers 205, 332, 361 can be construed as the second body, and include an antireflecting layer applied to the top surface of the LCD.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 12, 14-15, 17, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Bao et al, US Patent #6,266108

Bao et al discloses a front illuminating device with a light source, a light directing body 20 functioning as claimed with a light incident surface and opposite releasing surfaces, and a second light releasing surface formed into a step shape with slainting portions 22 for reflecting light mainly form the light source toward the first light releasing surface as claimed. Bao discloses an index matching adhesive 40, which can, in accordance with applicant's use, be the second body, as can bodies 70 and 80.

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Claims 1-4, 9-11, 17, 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tai et al US Patent 6092904.

Tai et al discloses a front illuminating device with a light source, a light directing body functioning as claimed with a light incident surface and opposite releasing surfaces, and a second light releasing surface formed into a step shape with slainting portions for reflecting light mainly form the light source toward the first light releasing surface as claimed. There are prisms on both bodies, and as the prisms are linear they will be anisotropically diffusing (the prisms will inherently defuse some of the light associated with the prisms, and therefore linearly, or "anisotropically"). The collimator 38 can also be construed as the second body.

.Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 9, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bao et al, US Patent #6,266108.

Bao et al lacks a diffuser between the top elements (as the second body). As the use of a top diffuser was a well known functionally equivalent alternative to the bottom reflector being diffusive. Therefore one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to use such a diffuser for diffusing the light as it was well known to be equally suitable for the intended purpose yet lower cost.

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Also lacking from disclosure is the device as an integral unit. It was judicially determined that making intergral was within the ordinary skill level, and here it would have been obvious so the elements remain attached and aligned.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tai et al US Patent 6092904

Also lacking from disclosure is the device as an integral unit. It was judicially determined that making intergral was within the ordinary skill level, and here it would have been obvious so the elements remain attached and aligned.

Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakabaysahi et al 6379017

Also lacking from disclosure is the device as an integral unit. It was judicially determined that making intergral was within the ordinary skill level, and here it would have been obvious so the elements remain attached and aligned.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The reason for the indication of allowable subject matter is the matching between the claimed functional elements.

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Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments were persuasive regarding the antireflection layer (as the location was not on the device front) except where it was explicitly taught. Additionally, the Tai reference applied previously was not a front lit device, so the reference has been changed to a new Tai reference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth A Parker whose telephone number is 703-305-6202. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William L. Sikes can be reached on 308-4842. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose elephone number is 308-0956.

Kelineth A Parker Primary Examiner Art Unit 2871

June 1, 2003